

U.S. Department
of Transportation

United States
Coast Guard



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United States Coast Guard

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15 Aug 2000

From: Commandant

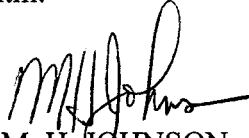
To: Distribution

Subj: COAST GUARD REVIEW OF U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS' PERMITS

1. The Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Coast Guard, enclosure (1), established a formal process for the Coast Guard to provide input into the USACE's public interest review of permits issued under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. § 403). This process is intended to provide the COTP an effective means for addressing port and waterway safety concerns associated with structures that will be constructed in or on the navigable waters during the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers public interest review process. It also provides a mechanism for the COTP to periodically evaluate and provide recommendations to the district engineer regarding permits for existing structures or projects in order to address port and waterway safety concerns due to changes in waterway usage or following a significant marine casualty or incident.
2. Enclosure (2) is policy guidance for implementing enclosure (1) and is effective immediately. Enclosure (1) requires that COTP input to the USACE district engineer be based on a risk assessment. Enclosure (2) includes a risk model that was developed to identify primary threats to the safety of the structure as well as to the port and waterway. The risk model was designed to maximize flexibility in order to accommodate differences between COTP zones while also providing some degree of uniformity. Such uniformity is important insofar as there is overlap between COTP zones and USACE districts.
3. COTPs should consider conducting risk assessments in concert with local harbor safety committees. Although this may not be practical for every risk assessment that is conducted, it is particularly important for major, high profile projects. Some harbor safety committees have already established subcommittees for this purpose.
4. It is requested that units provide feedback based on their experience implementing the policy and risk model. This feedback will be used to make appropriate changes to the policy and risk model before they are incorporated into the next revision of Vol. VI of the Marine Safety Manual, which is expected to occur during FY2001.

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5. Questions and feedback regarding this policy and risk model should be addressed to LT Alan Blume at 202-267-0550 or ablume@comdt.uscg.mil. Enclosures (1) and (2) are available on the Office of Waterways Management Policy and Planning's CG Web Page at <http://cgweb.comdt.uscg.mil/g-mw/docs.htm>.



M. H. JOHNSON

By direction

Encl: (1) Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the United States Coast Guard dated 2 June 2000
(2) USACE Section 10 Permit Review Policy Guidance

Dist: Area (m)
District (m)
Captains of the Port
Marine Safety School